Making Free legal aid a Fundamental Right

†1461. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make free legal aid a fundamental right;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action, so far, in this regard; and

(c)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which has been enacted keeping in view Article 39 A of the Constitution, seeks to secure operation of a legal system that promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity and provides for free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

Advocates' Welfare Fund Act

1462. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided that the Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 would come into force;

(b) whether its membership would be compulsory for each practising lawyer; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 has already been brought into force with effect from 01.11.2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Judgements reserved in various High Courts

1463. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.